



State of Minnesota
Second Judicial District
Ramsey County District Court

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www.mncourts.gov

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645 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155-1050

Cite: Minn. Stat.; 2014 Minn. Laws Chap. 263 Sec. 3
Topic: Interim Report on GPS Pilot Project to Monitor Domestic Abuse Offenders

To Whom It May Concern;

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 609.135, subdivision 5a Section 3 as amended, the District Court Administrator of a judicial district participating in a pilot project shall report on the district's pilot project one year after the date of implementation. As such, the Second Judicial District has attached two copies of its pilot project interim report.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask.

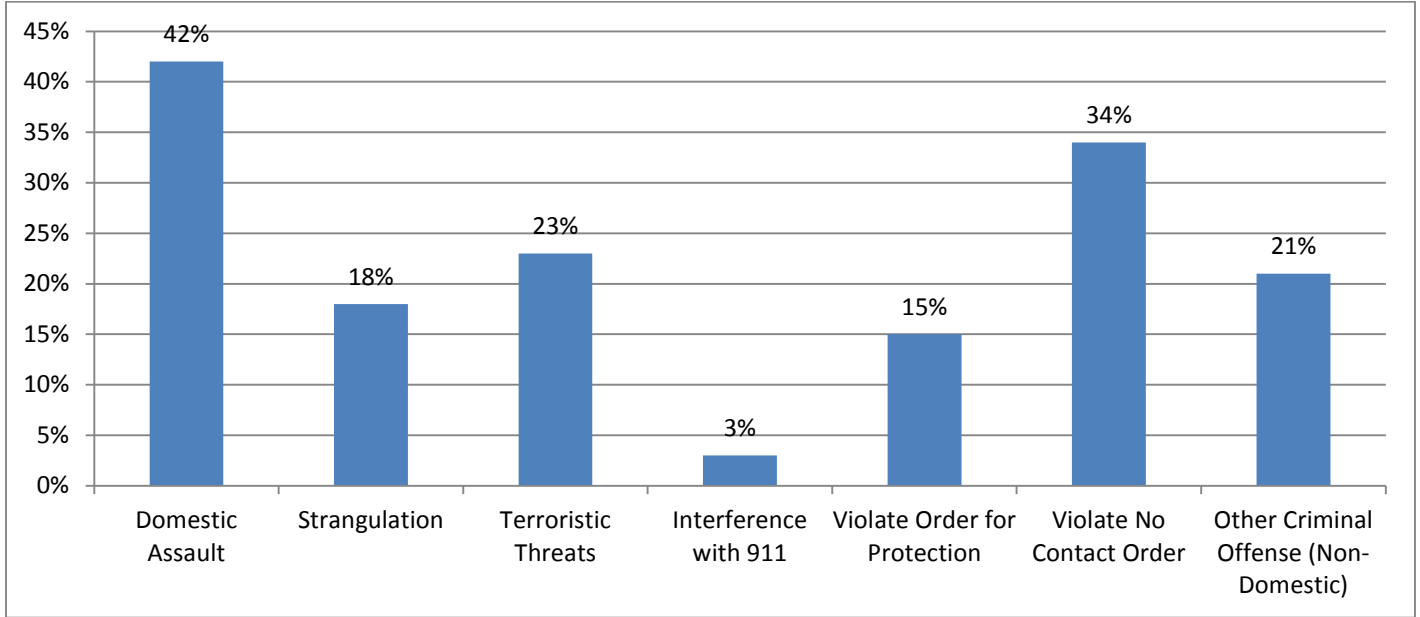
Sincerely,

Heather Kendall
District Administrator

Ramsey County GPS Screening Report – Years One and Two

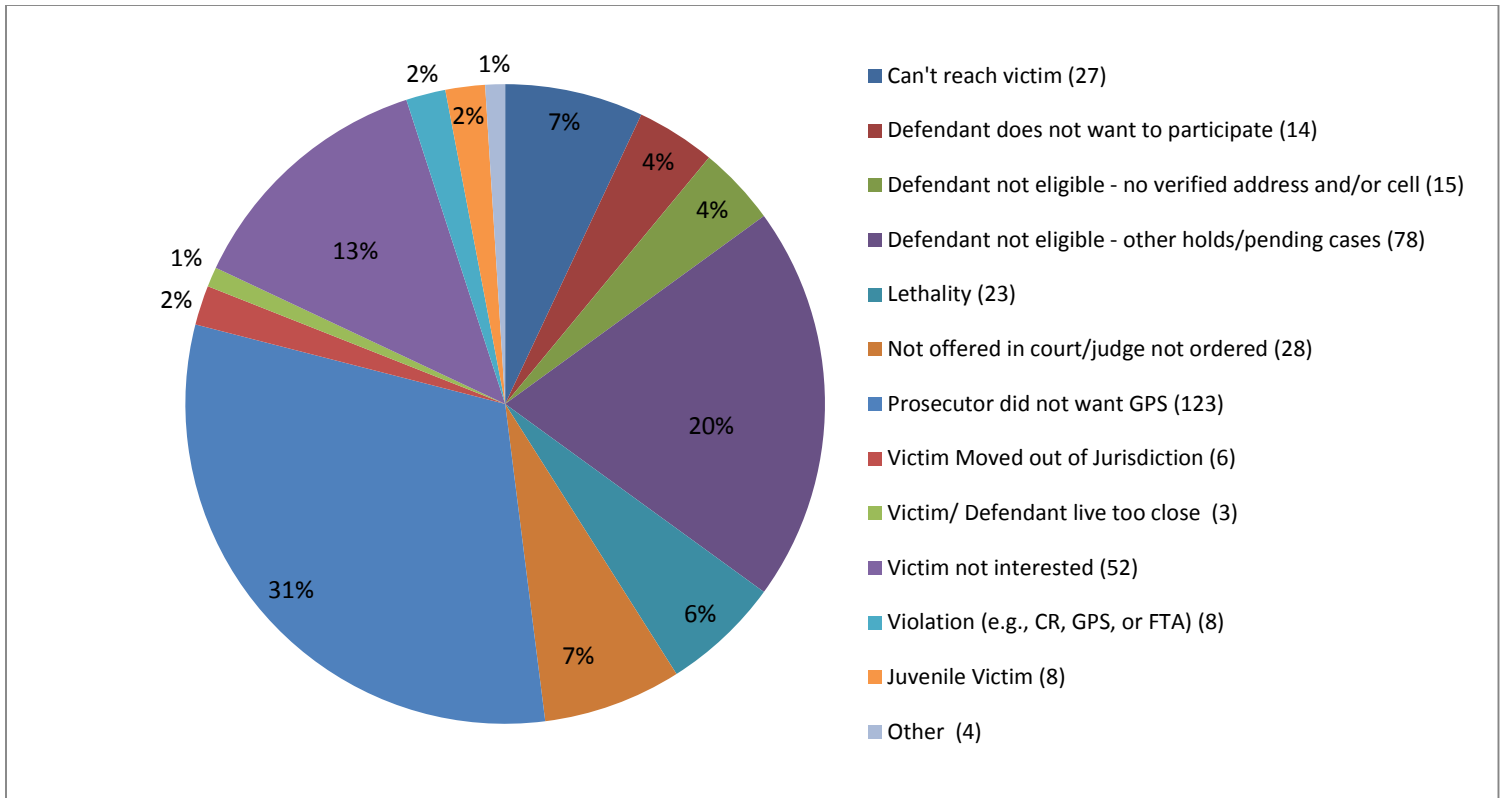
For the first two years of the pilot (11-1-12 to 10-31-14), there were 1185 domestic violence defendants screened for GPS. Of these individuals, 418 people (35%) were found eligible.

The bail score for eligible defendants ranged from -11 to -20 and the average score was -14.01. Below is chart of the charges. Most defendants had more than one charge, so it will be greater than 100%.



35 Defendants were released on GPS, 28 of those eligible based on the score.

390 defendants were not released for the following reasons:

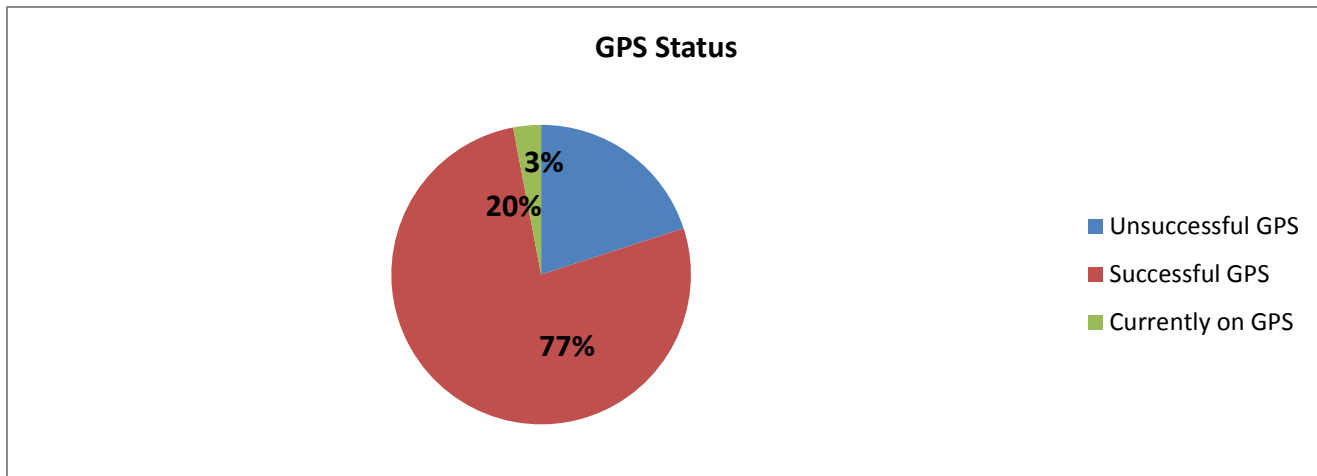


Demographics

Of the 35 defendants released on GPS, all were males aged 18 to 56, with an average age of 32.37 years.

GPS Current Status

As of October 31, 2014; one defendant was on GPS; 27 were deemed successful; seven were unsuccessful.



Unsuccessful Completion of GPS

For the seven defendants who were unsuccessfully terminated, below are the reasons:

- Three defendants were not cooperative and did not follow program rules.
- Two defendants were re-arrested and charged with violation of a domestic abuse no contact order.
- One defendant cut off the GPS bracelet and absconded.
- One defendant failed to appear

Cost

Approximately \$19,000 per year.

Regarding the Victims

Victims were carefully trained prior to use so they understood clearly the limitations of the device and that it couldn't absolutely guarantee their safety, but was an additional tool we could use to help promote their safety. Below are the results of victim interviews we conducted.

Summary of Victim Interviews

31 victims provided their phone numbers and nine of them (29%) agreed to be interviewed. There were nine victims (29%) whose phones were out of service, 10 victims (32%) who did not answer their phones and three victims (10%) where the number/ person was no longer at that number.

Interview Structure

The interviews were open-ended and the victims were asked about their overall experience with the GPS program, whether they felt safe, whether this experience was different than previous domestic violence incidences, and whether they had any comments or suggestions.

Results of the Interviews

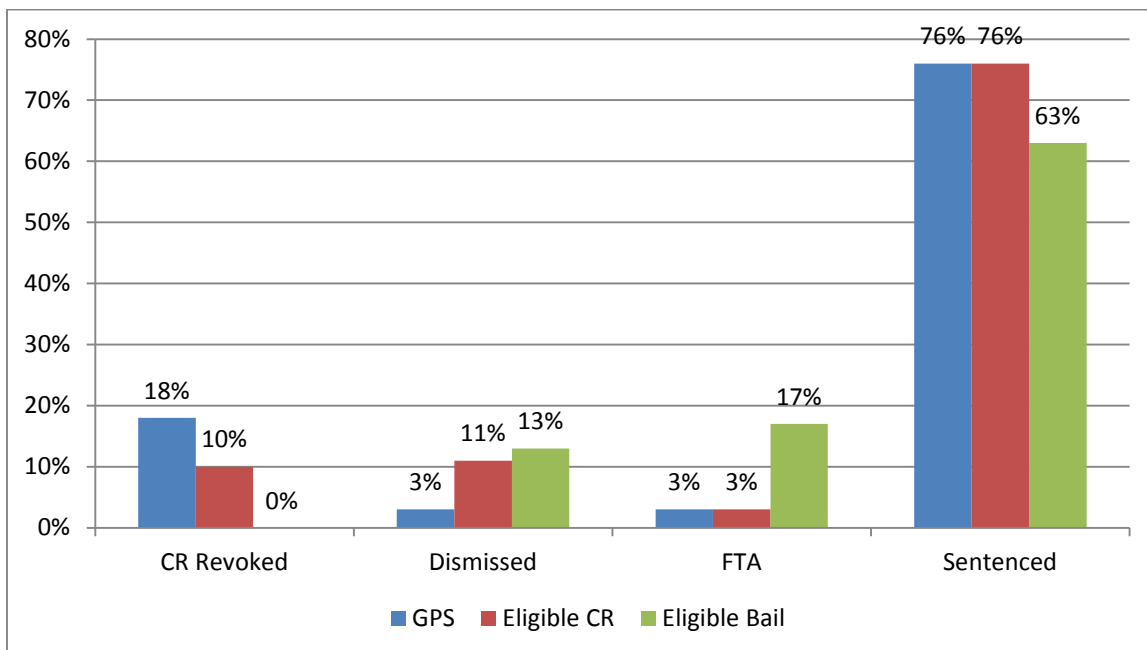
- Overall, the victims reported that they felt safe and that they had a good experience with the GPS program. Several victims said they felt safe knowing that the defendant was wearing the device.
- One victim indicated that the device saved her a number of times.
- A number of victims were very complimentary of the help they got from staff when called. They liked how things were addressed immediately and people were understanding and cooperative.
- Two victims thought it was a great program to have; to try new things that likely will work in many instances even if they may not have been overly helpful (or needed) in their own set of circumstances.
- The most common complaint was about the size of the GPS device. Several of the victims noted that it was too big.
- The most substantive complaint was that the monitor constantly went off (daily) due to living in close proximity to the defendant and hence felt safe but more uncomfortable as was impossible to forget about this person.
- Similarly, other victims commented on the frequency and timing of the GPS phone calls. One woman commented that they called her often to tell her that the battery was low. Another victim complained that they had called late at night and woke up her small infant.
- Victims reported that this was their first domestic violence incident or that this incident was unique and not comparable to previous experiences.

Analysis of GPS Pilot Outcomes as of January 2015

Three groups were created for the GPS pilot outcomes analysis:

1. A GPS group whose cases were complete ($n = 33$).
2. Those who were eligible for GPS based on their bail evaluation scores but did not participate in the GPS pilot and were released on conditional release ($n = 87$).
3. Those who were eligible for GPS based on their bail evaluation scores but did not participate in the GPS pilot and were released on bail ($n = 63$).

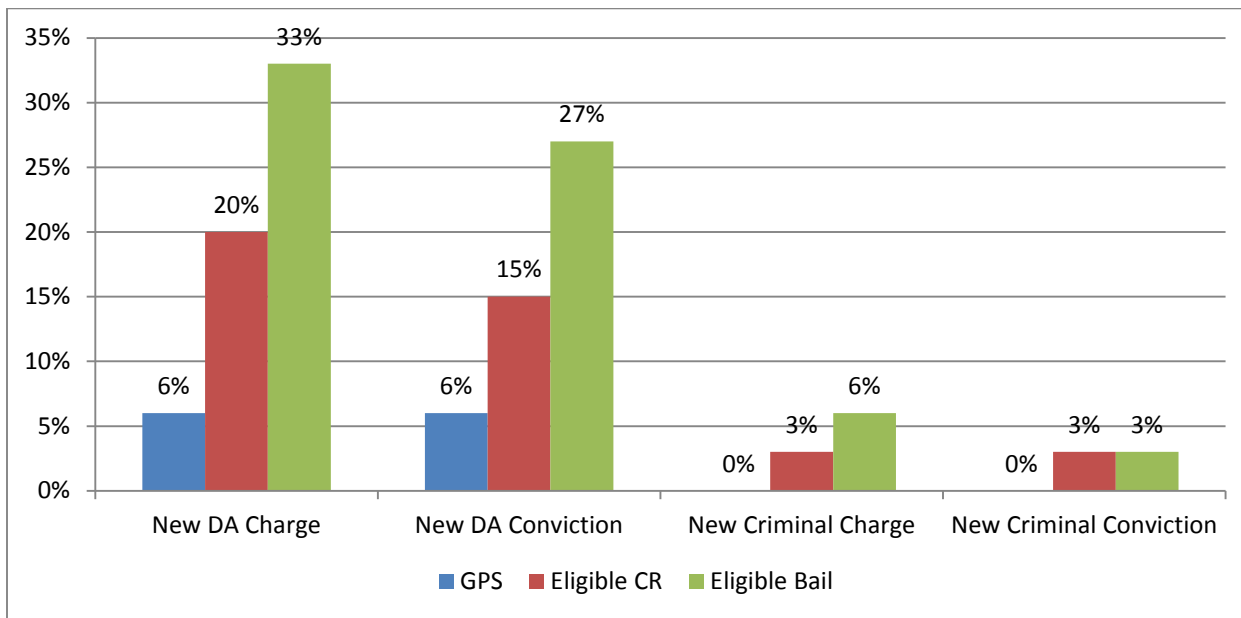
Case Outcomes



The GPS defendant failure to appear was 3%. The GPS eligible defendants who were released on bail had the highest failure to appear rate at 17%. The GPS defendants had a higher CR revocation rate (19%) than the GPS eligible defendants on who were on CR (10%).

Recidivism

Using the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS), defendants' records were reviewed in MNCIS from the date of release until the date their cases ended. Defendants' records were reviewed for new domestic violence charges and convictions, as well as new criminal charges and convictions. Payable traffic offenses were excluded. If a defendant had both a new domestic violence charge/conviction AND a criminal charge/conviction they were counted in both categories.



Those defendants in the comparison group who were released on bail had the greatest percentage of new charges and convictions for both domestic violence and criminal offenses. The GPS defendants and the GPS eligible defendants who were on CR had the lowest re-offense rate for new domestic violence offenses.

Conclusions

While there haven't been enough defendants on GPS to draw absolute conclusions, we believe the data displayed in this report looks promising. **Defendants who participated in the GPS pilot continue to demonstrate greater overall compliance with court orders and significantly lower rates of recidivism than the comparison group.** In addition, although victims had some technical complaints with the device, they reported having a good experience overall with the GPS program and feeling safe because of it. We believe this preliminary data supports the continuation of our pilot and possible expansion of the use of GPS to help increase compliance, reduce recidivism, and promote victim safety.